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Project Number GN1611

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3685

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Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
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Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767

Reference: CLEAN Contract No. N62472-03-D-0057
Contract Task Order No. 8

Subject: Draft Fact Sheet Update, Soil Removal Actions
Naval Station Newport, Newport, Rhode Island

Dear Ms. Keckler and Mr. Kulpa:

As requested by the Navy, I am providing for your review and comment a draft fact sheet update for removal actions at the Old Fire Fighting Training Area (OFFTA) at Naval Station Newport, in Newport, Rhode Island. A preliminary copy of this draft update was provided to you at the RPMs meeting January 17, 2007.

This fact sheet update corresponds to the second action memo prepared for this site which underwent your review in December 2006. It is intended to update the public on the Navy's progress removing soil and underground structures, and the design/installation of a shoreline revetment.

In accordance with the statement of work, copies of this material have been provided to those on the distribution list below for your review and comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact James Colter at (610) 595-0567.

Very truly yours,

Stephen S. Parker, LSP
Project Manager

SSP/rp

Enclosure

- c: J. Colter, NAVFAC (2, w/encl.)
K. Finkelstein, NOAA (1, w/encl.)
C. Mueller, NAVSTA (2, w/encl.)
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File GN1611-3.2 (w/o encl.) File GN1611-8.0 (w/encl.)



FACT SHEET UPDATE

SOIL CLEANUP AT THE OLD FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING AREA

Update for January 2007

NAVAL STATION NEWPORT Installation Restoration Program Newport, Rhode Island

The Cleanup Proposal...

After careful study of the Old Fire Fighting Training Area, the Navy continues the removal of contaminated soil and fill from the property.

The Navy will:

- **Excavate** contaminated soil and debris.
- **Dispose** of contaminated soil and rubble in an approved off-site facility.
- **Restore** the excavated areas for continued Navy use of the property.
- **Restrict** the future use of the property as overflow parking and open space.
- **Construct** a protective stone revetment and a fence to restrict access to the shoreline in this area.

Find Out More...

The Navy invites you to attend the RAB meetings on the third Wednesday of selected months to learn more about the continuing cleanup. The Navy will respond to your questions and concerns about the proposed cleanup and how it may affect you. For further information on the RAB meeting, contact Cornelia Mueller at cornelia.mueller@navy.mil

**All Are Welcome at the
Restoration Advisory
Board (RAB) Meeting
Third Wednesday of
Selected Months**

7:00-9:00 PM

**Officer's Club
Naval Station Newport
Newport, Rhode Island**

**For a complete calendar visit:
<http://www.rabnewportri.org>**

What's new?

A Public Meeting was held in July 2003, where the Navy proposed a removal action for the site. Since that time, the Navy has completed several parts of that action:

- A pre-design investigation was conducted to refine the area where removal should be conducted.
- The removal of debris mounds was completed in 2005.
- During removal of the debris mounds, remnant structures were found underneath that also require removal.
- An independent panel of scientists and engineers reviewed the studies conducted for this site and recommended two additional risk evaluations.
- Plans for the second phase of the removal action have been drafted and are available at the public libraries for comment.

In accordance with the law that established the Superfund program (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act - CERCLA), this document summarizes changes to the Navy's cleanup proposal. For detailed information on the options evaluated for use at the site, see the Old Fire Fighting Training Area Feasibility Study (September 2002) and other documents available for review at the information repositories at the Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport Public Libraries.

A Closer Look at the Navy's Proposal...

Excavate contaminated soil and debris.

Soil and fill at the site contains remnant contaminants from use of fuel and from fire training operations. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), common in oil and produced by burning, exist in the soil along with residual oil and fill consisting of brick, concrete and rubble. Some metals that exceed state criteria for residential property are also present in soils.

Approximately 58,000 cubic yards of material (about 5 acres) were planned to be excavated. After the area was better defined in 2004, and after the first phase of the removal was conducted, the planned amount was reduced.

The basic steps for this action are described below:

- Excavate the contaminated soil using conventional earth-moving equipment.
- Demolish and remove building foundations and other structures from fire training operations that may harbor residual contamination.
- Transport the contaminated soil/debris off-site in trucks.
- Dispose of this material at an approved off-site facility.
- Backfill the excavated areas with clean soil.
- Stabilize the shoreline and protect it from erosion with a replacement stone revetment.

What impacts would the removal have on the local community and the environment?

The construction effort has been separated into several phases. The first phase was conducted in 2004 and 2005. The second phase is planned for late 2007, and residents may notice:

- noise from construction activities, and
- an increase in truck traffic on the access road to Gate 1, and on local primary routes leading east or north.

Why Does the Navy Recommend this Plan?

The Navy recommended a removal action that uses excavation to address contaminated soil at the site. This approach:

- Meets risk reduction goals
- Addresses the highest risk by removing contaminated soil from the environment and disposing of it properly, thereby ensuring long-term protection of human health and the environment.
- Allows temporary restricted re-use of the property.
- Contributes to the final remedy, still to be decided.

Why is Removal Needed?

Some levels of contaminants were found in excess of what is considered "hazardous" levels and must be removed.

Some structures and piping were left in the ground when the fire training area was demolished. To assure these structures do not continue to provide contaminants to the environment, they will be removed.

The existing erosion protection at the site has been shifted and damaged by storm events since the 1970s. This system will be replaced with a revetment that is to be designed to protect the shore from erosion, and protect the harbor and ecosystem.

A risk assessment conducted in 2001 found there is possible risk for health effects under certain conditions. This study concluded that the most significant potential for risk was from exposure to subsurface soils if the site was to be used for residential property. Therefore the property use is restricted until a final remedy is selected for the site.

Site History

The Old Fire Fighting Training Area, used as a fire training school by the Navy from the 1940s to the early 1970's, is located on 5.5 acres along the north end of Coasters Harbor Island.

1940s: The site opened as a Navy fire fighting training area. Fire training exercises were conducted, which involved using water to extinguish burning oil in a series of pits and small buildings, meant to simulate ship compartments. This water carried oil into the soils of the training area and to the shoreline of Coasters Harbor Island.

1972 to 1974: The fire training facility was closed. Most of the structures at the site were demolished, debris and some soils were pushed into three mounds at the site, and the whole site was covered with topsoil and seeded.

1976: The site was dedicated and reopened as Katy Field (ball field and picnic area).

1983: The Initial Assessment Study was completed for the Newport Navy Base to identify, assess, and control contaminants from past hazardous materials management. Based on the information available, the site was not initially identified as a site requiring further action.

1989: NAVSTA Newport sites were added to EPA's National Priorities List. Oil-contaminated soils were found in a construction excavation.

1991: The Phase 1 Remedial Investigation was completed. This study found that contamination was present and recommended further investigation.

1992: A Federal Facilities Agreement, signed by the Navy, EPA, and RIDEM, identified responsibilities for cleanup activities and a schedule by which to implement them.

1992: Phase 2 Remedial Investigation for the site was completed. The study further delineates extent of contamination.

1996: A citizen's advisory committee called a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) was established to assist the Navy in addressing the Installation Restoration program sites.

1997 and 1998: Studies determined that oil-related contaminants are present in subsurface soil between two and ten feet below ground surface. The Site was closed to recreational activities and fenced to restrict access during remaining investigations and cleanup.

1998-2000: Risk assessments were conducted to determine risks to the off-shore environment from contaminants in the site soil and adjacent offshore sediment. Studies concluded that contaminants are present at concentrations that pose some increased risk to marine animals. The highest area of risk was found near one of the storm drain outfalls.

2001: The Remedial Investigation was completed documenting that there would be increased risks to persons using the area for residential property and to persons habitually ingesting shellfish (47 meals per year) collected from adjacent Coasters Harbor.

Site History (continued)

2002: A Feasibility Study was developed to evaluate remedial action alternatives for the soils, groundwater and the marine sediments of Coasters Harbor.

2003: A design study was completed that mapped out the areas of soil exceeding concentrations deemed "hazardous".

2004-2005: The first phase of the removal action was conducted: the Navy removed soil and debris mounds containing concrete and metal left after demolition of the training area structures in 1974.

2006: Conceptual designs were prepared for removal of the subsurface soil and installation of the replacement stone revetment. An independent panel of scientists and engineers reviewed this design and the expected risk reduction, and recommended a revised approach for this removal action:

- Remove only the soil that is deemed "hazardous".
- Remove remaining structures from the fire training area that are still underground and may pose a continued threat of contamination.
- Expand the risk evaluations already conducted to calculate risk to workers at the site, and
- Revise the Feasibility Study to evaluate a permanent land use restriction to retain the property as open space.

What are the Next Steps?

The Navy expects to have signed a second "Action Memorandum" directing the second phase of the chosen removal action in January 2006. The Action Memorandum and work plans for this phase of removal will be available at the information repositories at the Portsmouth, Middletown, and Newport public libraries.

These plans will be reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and implemented after agreement on how the work will be carried out.

After this second phase of the removal action, the risk from exposure to groundwater and sediments will be reviewed. Based on that review, a final remedy for the site will be selected.

Is this the Final Action?

This is the second phase of an interim removal action begun in 2004. This action will address the worst part of the contamination present, and will contribute to the final remedy at the site as required by Section 104(a)(2) of CERCLA.

A final remedy for the entire site will be proposed to the public, as required by Superfund, before being selected. That final remedy will be proposed to the public through the RAB, as well as public meetings, hearings, and other outreach efforts.

What are the Cleanup Objectives?

Investigations concluded that there are contaminants in the soil at the site that pose unacceptable risk to persons using the site for uncontrolled residential and or recreational purposes. However, the future use of the site is currently planned for restricted recreation and Navy personnel use.

The Navy identified three initial cleanup objectives to address the identified risks:

- Prevent people from contacting soil containing contaminants that exceed the acceptable levels for unrestricted use of the site.
- Address the soil in a manner that will prevent degradation of groundwater at the site, and that will result in a decrease in groundwater contamination.

Current state restrictions preventing shellfish collection and Navy restrictions on use of the shoreline are the current measures in effect until a permanent solution can be reached to address contaminants in sediment. Additionally, groundwater shall not be used for water supply until a permanent solution can be reached to address contaminants in groundwater.

Stay Informed

The Newport Naval Station RAB is a volunteer group of local citizens who meet regularly to hear and advise the Navy as they

- identify and evaluate contaminated Navy facilities;
- comply with procedural and substantive requirements of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) as amended by (SARA), and
- conduct proactive public outreach programs and community relations.

The RAB meets at the Newport Naval Officers Club at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of selected months. Check our calendar for dates and for occasional changes to time or place.

For more information on the RAB, visit:

<http://www.rabnwp.nri.navy.mil>

Different Kinds of Cleanup

The Navy looked at numerous technical approaches to determine the best way to reduce the risks presented by a site. The possibilities are then narrowed to approaches that would protect human health and the environment. Although reducing risks often involves combinations of highly technical processes, there are limited basic options for the soil.

1. Take no action:

Leave the site as it is.

2. Isolate the contaminants:

Provide a barrier between contaminants and receptors (people and wildlife). Barriers can be as simple as fences (to keep people away) or as complex as multi-layer cover systems with a legal land-use restriction.

3. Remove contaminants:

Remove contaminated soil and fill, and dispose of it or treat it elsewhere.

4. Treat contamination on site:

Use a chemical or physical process on the site to destroy or remove the contaminants. Treated material can be left on site. Contaminants captured by the treatment process are disposed of at an approved disposal facility.

5. Monitor the contaminants:

Many remedies are combined with monitoring after completing the remedial action to assure that the action achieved the cleanup objectives. If contaminant levels increase again after the action, it is likely that another solution will need to be identified.

6. Interim actions:

An interim action may be selected for one part of the site until another part of the site is restored. For instance, if the removal of soils is likely to result in a reduction in groundwater contamination, the interim action for groundwater may be to monitor the groundwater until that reduction is confirmed.

The proposal for this site is to conduct an interim action (#6) and remove the contaminants (#3).

For More Detailed Information

This publication summarizes a number of reports and studies to help the public understand and comment on the proposal for the site. The Draft Final Feasibility Study (September 2002) and supporting documents prepared for the site have been provided to the following information repositories for Naval Station Newport:

Middletown Public Library
West Main Road
Middletown, RI
401-846-1573
Hrs. Mon-Fri: 10 – 8
Sat: 10 - 5

Newport Public Library
300 Spring Street
Newport, RI
401-847-8720
Hrs. Mon: 12:30 – 9
Tue-Thu: 9:30 – 9
Fri-Sat: 9:30 – 6
Sun: 1 – 5

Portsmouth Public Library
2658 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI
401-683-9457
Hrs. Mon-Thu: 9 – 8
Fri-Sat: 9 – 5

Also, keep up to date on the Installation Restoration Program by visiting the RAB Web site:
<http://www.rabnewportri.org>

Additionally, information can be obtained by contacting the Navy, EPA, or RIDEM at:

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(617) 918-1385 or (888) 372-7341

Paul Kulpa
Remedial Project Manager
Office of Waste Management
R.I. Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908-5767
(401) 222-2297 ext. 7111

The public is invited to attend the regularly scheduled RAB meetings held on the third Wednesday of selected months at 7:00 p.m. For information on RAB meetings, contact Cornelia Mueller, 401-841-7561, or visit:
<http://www.rabnewportri.org>

Use This Space to Write Your Comments

Or to be added to the mailing list

The Navy wants your written comments on the options under consideration for reducing risk at Coasters Harbor Island from soil that has been contaminated by chemicals from the Old Fire Fighting Training Area. You can use the form below to send or fax written comments. If you have questions about how to comment, please call Cornelia Mueller at 401-841-7561. This form is provided for your convenience. Please mail this form or additional sheets of written comments to:

Cornelia Mueller
Naval Station Newport
Environmental Department
1 Simonpietri Drive
Newport, RI 02841
Fax: (401) 841-7561

Or E-mail to:

Cornelia Mueller at cornelia.mueller@navy.mil

(Use reverse side and attach sheets as needed)

Comments Submitted by:

MAILING LIST ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR CHANGES

If you did not receive this through the mail and would like to

☐ added to the site mailing list
☐ note a change of address
☐ be deleted from the mailing list

Name: _____
Address: _____

Please check the appropriate box and fill in the correct address information above.

DRAFT

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Public Comment Sheet (cont....)

Place
Stamp
Here

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Naval Station Newport
Environmental Department
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Newport, RI 02841